

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2679

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUN, KS, US
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER

REF: STATE 082161

1. POLCOUNS CALLED ATTENTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, MOFA, PAK SSANG-YONG, TO U.S. PUBLIC CONCERN OVER TRIAL OF YI YONG-HUI AND PAEK NAK-CHONG. PAK NOTED THAT ROKG AWARE OF SENSITIVITY OF ISSUE AND THAT MOFA HAD ALREADY MADE THIS POINT TO MIN JUSTICE.

2. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, ONE OF LAWYERS OF ACCUSED SAID PROSECUTION CHARGES AT THIS POINT CENTERED ON QUOTES BY YI IN "IDOLATRY AND REASON" FROM AN EDGAR SNOW ASSESSMENT OF MAO TSE TUNG AND QUOTES IN "DIALOGUE WITH 800 MILLION" FROM ALAIN PEYERFITTE'S "THE PRICE OF BOLLD", WILLIAM HINTON'S "DISTRIBUTION OF THE FRUITS", AND GALBRAITH'S "COMMUNIST CHINESE ECONOMY AS I SAW IT".

3. NEXT SESSION OF TRIAL EXPECTED WITHIN ONE OR TWO WEEKS. PROSECUTION COULD BE TRYING TO MAKE CASE THAT SELECTION OF MATERIAL BY YI DESIGNED TO GIVE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF COMMUNIST EXPERIENCE IN CHINA QUITE APART FROM WHETHER INDIVIDUAL SELECTIONS PRAISE COMMUNISM, AT THIS POINT,
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HOWEVER, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT PROSECUTION CONSIDERS INDIVIDUAL SELECTIONS TO CONSTITUTE PRAISE OF COMMUNISM IN THEMSELVES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CASE AS IT DEVELOPS.
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